

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IGA-02 AGR-05 AGRE-00

EB-07 /079 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:DKUX

APPROVED BY NEA:ADUBS

AID/ASIA:AGARDINER

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R 242258Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: FRASER'S SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. FRASER'S SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON INDIA SEPTEMBER 23  
HEARD NEA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS AND AID ASIA  
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR ART GARDINER REVIEW CURRENT  
SITUATION IN INDIA AND U.S. ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. TEXT OF  
DUBS' REMARKS CABLED BY SEPTTEL. GARDINER GAVE FACTUAL  
PRESENTATION OF OUR PROGRAMS IN INDIA, BOTH BILATERAL  
AND MULTILATERAL. HE NOTED THAT TALKS ON BILATERAL DEVELOP-  
MENT ASSISTANCE IN FY 76 HAD BEEN DEFERRED AND ALSO THAT  
"BY LAW" U.S. VOTED AGAINST IDA LOANS TO INDIA.

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2. FRASER WAS THE ONLY MEMBER PRESENT ALTHOUGH SNEEDON, A

STAFFER FOR DERWINSKI, ALSO ASKED SOME QUESTIONS. IN ADDITION TO INDIAN CORRESPONDENTS, AP, UP AND REUTERS HAD REPORTERS PRESENT.

3. AFTER EXPLANATION FROM GARDINER REGARDING U.S. VOTE AGAINST IDA LOANS (AS A RESULT OF 1974 LONG AMENDMENT), MAJOR FOCUS OF QUESTIONING BY FRASER WAS ON ADVISABILITY OF U.S. DEVELOPMENT AID RESUMPTION TO INDIA AND ALSO NATURE OF CHANGES UNDERWAY IN THAT COUNTRY. GARDINER AND DUBS STRESSED THAT NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ON RESUMPTION OF BILATERAL LENDING AND CONFIRMED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN INDIA WOULD BE CONSIDERATION IN REACHING JUDGMENT. FOR HIS PART, FRASER INDICATED THAT HE OPPOSED A CUTOFF IN 71, BUT THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A "TRAVESTY" TO EXPAND OUR AID BEYOND HUMANITARIAN FOOD AT A TIME WHEN INDIA WAS GROWING INCREASINGLY REPRESSIVE.

4. IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ON CURRENT SITUATION IN INDIA, DUBS STRESSED THE IMMENSITY OF ECONOMIC AND HUMAN PROBLEMS. HE ALSO RECALLED REMARKS HE HEARD FROM SENIOR INDIANS DURING VISIT LAST YEAR AS TO WHETHER WESTMINISTER MODEL AS IT FUNCTIONED BEFORE THE EMERGENCY WAS COPING SATISFACTORILY WITH INDIA'S PROBLEMS. FRASER EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ABOUT RESTRICTIONS ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, BUT AGREED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR THE U.S. TO TELL INDIA HOW TO RUN ITS AFFAIRS.

5. TORTURE, ANANDA MARG (REPRESENTATIVE TESTIFIED LATER IN SEPTEMBER 23 HEARING), RESTRICTIONS ON JUDICIARY, AND JAILING OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ALSO CAME UP IN LOW KEY QUESTIONING BY FRASER. DUBS RESPONDED IN STRAIGHT-FORWARD MANNER ON BASIS OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO U.S.G. FRASER NOTED ON TORTURE QUESTION THAT STATE DEPARTMENT "NEVER" SEEMED TO HAVE CONFIRMATION AND ALSO EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL DOUBT ABOUT "TEMPORARY" CHARACTER OF EMERGENCY. SNEEDON ALSO ASKED ABOUT INDIAN MILITARY ROLE AND DUBS INDICATED THAT TO DATE INDIA'S MILITARY HAD RETAINED ITS TRADITIONAL HANDS-OFF POSTURE.

6. COMMENT: THE HEARING WENT OFF IN VERY LOW-KEY MANNER. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUESTIONING OF ADMINISTRATION WITNESSES WAS NOT HOSTILE. FRASER, WHILE STRESSING HIS CONCERN THAT HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD IMPACT ON OUR RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES LIKE INDIA AGREED REGARDING IMMENSITY OF PROBLEMS INDIA FACED.

7. INDIAN EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER RAJAN, WHO ATTENDED HEARING, CALLED NEA/INS TO EXPRESS "APPRECIATION" FOR BALANCED USG STATEMENTS BY DUBS AND GARDINER. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** vogelfj  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE237860  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** DKUX  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ORIGIN NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** vogelfj  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 JUN 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2004 by vogelfj>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FRASER'S SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SHUM, EAID, IN, US, (FRASER, DONALD M), (DUBS, ADOLPH)  
**To:** NEW DELHI  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006